



**Illinois Association of  
Latino Administrators and Superintendents**

## Quarterly Newsletter

Dear IALAS Members,

I would like to thank all of the members and presenters for their participation and support of the **IALAS Educational Conclave** held on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The IALAS Board received numerous compliments for the wealth of knowledge shared by the presenters as well as the opportunities to network and learn from other member districts.

We look forward to additional opportunities to learn and grow together. Our next event, the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IALAS Statewide Conference**, will be held on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at Northern Illinois University's Naperville Campus. Immediately following the conference, we will be hosting a **Spring Network Mixer**.

The IALAS Board would like to acknowledge this year's nominees for the ALAS Leaders in Education Awards. They are Dr. David Negron for the Latino Superintendent of the Year, Eulalia Valdez for the Latino Administrator of the Year, and Maria Burgos for the Hispanic Serving School District (HSSD) Latino Administrator of the Year. These awards highlight the incredible work our members are engaged in. In addition, I would like to share that Dr. Charles Johns, our affiliate state representative, will be attending the ALAS Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. to ensure that we are represented in educational policy.

I would also like to inform our members that the terms for the positions of Vice President, Secretary I, and Historian will be ending on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Elections to fill these three positions will take place from Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure you vote!

Finally, we are excited to announce that the IALAS Board has decided to join the Illinois Latino Coalition of Education Leaders (ILCEL) in an effort to unify and continue to support our Latino communities.

As part of the IALAS family, we hope that you find your participation in this organization to be a unique and rewarding experience. We look forward to continuing to build the leadership of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Rudy Hernandez  
IALAS President



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**ALAS Leaders in Education Awards Nominee**  
**LATINO SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Name: Dr. David Negron**

**Occupation: Superintendent of Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview School District 89**



Dr. David A. Negron is the proud superintendent of Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview School District 89. He has over 17 years of experience in public education. He has been a public school administrator for 13 years serving as an elementary principal, middle school principal and now as a superintendent. Dr. Negron started his career as a school social worker and a bilingual teacher. Dr. Negron believes strongly that all students can learn and learn at high levels. He further believes in developing strong professional learning communities where teachers and staff members can continue to develop their craft and master new skills.

Dr. Negron is an elected official serving as a school board member at his children's school district for the past four years. Dr. Negron received an Educator of the Year award in 2012 and an Ambassador for Educational Excellence in 2012 from Schaumburg School District 54. Additionally, he was recognized in 2007 by Northeastern Illinois University with an Educational Leadership award for his work with students. He was also recognized in 2002 by The University of Chicago with the Evelyn Harris Ginsburg Memorial Prize for outstanding work with students. He is also a member of several organizations including the Illinois Association of School Administrators, the Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents, Suburban Superintendents Association of Illinois to name just a few. Dr. Negron is also an adjunct professor at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. Finally, Dr. Negron has given a variety of presentations at workshops and conferences both in and out of Illinois covering a variety of topics including instructional leadership and administrative leadership.

Dr. Negron obtained his Bachelor's degree from Northeastern Illinois University. He received his Master's degree from The University of Chicago as well as his second Master's Degree from Benedictine University. Most recently, he received a doctorate degree from The University of Illinois.

**ALAS Leaders in Education Awards Nominee**  
**LATINO ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**

**Name: Eulalia Valdez**

**Occupation: Director of English Learners at Oswego Community Unit School District 308**



Eulalia Valdez is celebrating her fifteenth year in the field of education. She is the Director of English Learners (ELs) at Oswego Community Unit School District 308 in Oswego, Illinois. She has served as Director of Language Acquisition for English language learners from pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She has also overseen programming for English learners, as well as, world and classical languages for grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. In these capacities, she has led work in curriculum development, instructional improvement, assessment and professional learning to ensure quality and equitable education for students of linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds and the general education student population.

Mrs. Valdez has also served as a building administrator and classroom teacher in bilingual and general education classrooms at various grade levels. She has supported the work of the Division of English Learners at the Illinois State Board of Education in the areas of assessment, guidance documents and the state's Seal of Biliteracy. Prior to entering the field of education, Mrs. Valdez enjoyed 15 years in corporate America.

Mrs. Valdez is a founding Board member of the Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (IALAS). She served as Treasurer for the first two years, when the organization was in the start-up phase. Her mission is to provide access to quality and equitable education for all children. She strongly believes that education is the key to a better life and opens the door to authentic choice.

Mrs. Valdez obtained her Bachelor's of Arts degree in Spanish Business Translation and Bachelor's of Science degree in Marketing from Northern Illinois University. She obtained her Master's of Arts degree in Teaching from Aurora University and her second Master's of Arts degree in School Leadership from Concordia University. She is working towards a doctoral degree in Leadership from Aurora University.

**ALAS Leaders in Education Awards Nominee**  
**HISPANIC SERVING SCHOOL DISTRICT (HSSD)**  
**LATINO ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**

**Name: Maria Burgos**

**Occupation: Director of English Learners at Cicero District 99**



Maria Burgos has served Cicero District 99 for the past fifteen years in a multitude of roles as building administrator, bilingual teacher, and currently as the Director of English Learners. Her servitude to parents, students, staff, and the community extends beyond the scope of an average employee. Ms. Burgos exceeds expectations and takes great pride in District 99 as she has the privilege of giving back to the community she was raised in.

Ms. Burgos cultivates involvement within the community through the development of an array of programs focused on the integration of embracing culture and family involvement. Ms. Burgos optimizes students' learning experiences by leading the implementation of the Dual Language Program in Cicero, in order to ensure the development of biliterate and bicultural students that are academically and linguistically high achieving in both English and Spanish.

Ms. Burgos received her Bachelor's degree in Spanish Language and Literature from Northern Illinois University. She obtained her Master's degree in Elementary Education from Northern Illinois University and her second Master's degree in Education from DePaul University where she was awarded a fellowship in The Stars School Leadership Project. Ms. Burgos is in the process of completing her doctoral degree with a focus on Educational Leadership from National Louis University.



## Educational Conclave

On Thursday, March 22, 2018, IALAS hosted its Educational Conclave at Northeastern Illinois University's El Centro Campus in Chicago. This was a sold out event that attracted the participation of 80 members. It was incredible to see members actively engaged in learning from each other. And, we were so fortunate to have an outstanding, dynamic, and entertaining keynote speaker, Sara Boucek. She contributed to a memorable experience.

IALAS would like to thank Northeastern Illinois University for hosting our event. IALAS would also like to thank ST Math for sponsoring our luncheon and Ballet Folklórico from West Chicago for their amazing performance. Below are some photographs from this event. We look forward to seeing you at our next scheduled events, *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IALAS Statewide Conference* and *Spring Network Mixer*. They will be held on May 25, 2018 at Northern Illinois University's Naperville Campus in Naperville.





## Educational Conclave



## Upcoming IALAS Events

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IALAS Statewide Conference**

#### *Building Your Legacy: Best Practices in Education*

##### Keynote Speakers



Dr. DJ Skogsberg and Dr. Debbie LeBlanc

**Friday, May 25, 2018**  
**8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
**Northern Illinois University,**  
**Naperville Campus**  
**1120 East Diehl Road**  
**Naperville, Illinois**

The ticket price is \$60. This price includes continental breakfast and plated lunch. Registration can be completed and tickets can be purchased through our website at [www.ialas.org](http://www.ialas.org) under "Events."

### **Spring Network Mixer** **(Immediately Following the Conference)**



**Friday, May 25, 2018**  
**3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Northern Illinois University,**  
**Naperville Campus**  
**1120 East Diehl Road**  
**Naperville, Illinois**

The ticket price is \$20. This price includes hot and cold appetizers as well as open bar. Registration can be completed and tickets can be purchased through our website at [www.ialas.org](http://www.ialas.org) under "Events."

**\* Please note that tickets for both events can be purchased at the same time.**

## Partners



## ATTENTION Membership

We are looking forward to you renewing your membership with our organization! We are also encouraging you to bring a friend, a colleague, or an acquaintance along to join! You can join by clicking [here](#)!

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## BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections for the positions of Vice President, Secretary I and Historian will be held from April 20, 2018 through May 11, 2018. Below are the roles and responsibilities for these positions. **Nominations will be opened until April 16, 2018.**

**Vice President:** The vice president shall serve as president-elect and preside in the absence of the president and perform all duties as assigned by the president. In this capacity, the vice president shall represent IALAS as the office dictates.

**Secretary:** The secretary shall share the responsibility of keeping the minutes of all regular and special IALAS meetings. The secretary shall promptly transmit to each member the minutes of such meetings and see that all notices of meetings and other IALAS events are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws. The secretary shall maintain the register of membership inclusive of names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. The secretary shall perform duties as assigned. In the absence of the secretary, the president will appoint a member to take minutes.

**Historian/Publicist:** The historian/publicist shall maintain the history as well as the archives of IALAS. As publicist, this officer also shall have oversight of the IALAS website and communicate with the membership, public and media using a variety of tools including email and social media.